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“THE
BRUTE!”

JOHN
CABELARIO

APPROVED BY THE
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AUTHORITY

THE BIG BLOWUP



AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIOLOGY, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRICKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. NOW, HAVING BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE PLANET CALLED COUNTER-EARTH IN SEARCH OF ASTRONAUT JOHN JAMESON, PETER MUST LEARN TO SURVIVE ON A WORLD FRAUGHT WITH ALIEN PERIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS:

SPIDER-MAN
UNLIMITED

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...I DUNNO, I WAS JUST HOPIN' FOR SOMETHING WITH A LITTLE MORE...

...Y'KNOW... OOMPH!

MORE OOMPH!!

IF THAT SHOT HAD ANY MORE OOMPH, YOU'D HAVE A BRUISE!

YEAH, YEAH... LOOK, I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN', KID.

AND DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT'S A GREAT ACTION SHOT.

IT'S JUST ... I DUNNO... A LITTLE TOO TYPICAL OF THE KINDA STUFF YOU BEEN BRINGIN' ME LATELY, Y'KNOW?

I MEAN, THE THING IS, PETER, YOU GET, LIKE, THE BEST SPIDER-MAN PICTURES--THAT'S YER THING, RIGHT?

BUT READERS HAVE SEEN SPIDEY IN ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT POSES AND SITUATIONS--THEY'RE GETTIN' HUNGRY FOR SOMETHING NEW.

OH, SO WHAT? YOU'RE SAYING SPIDER-MAN ISN'T EXCITING ENOUGH FOR YOU ANYMORE?

DON'T BE A MEATHHEAD, PARKER. SPIDER-MAN'S STILL THE HOTTEST THING IN TOWN, BUT PEOPLE LIKE VARIETY.

THEY LIKE NEW, NEW, NEW!!

WAIT A MINUTE...

I CAN DO THAT. I'D LOVE TO DO THAT.

ARE YOU ACTUALLY SAYING YOU WANT ME TO TAKE PICTURES OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN SPIDER-MAN?

YEAH, WELL, DON'T GET TOO EXCITED 'TIL YOU HEAR WHAT I GOT LINED UP FOR YOU.

THERE'S ANOTHER SUPER-POWERED FREAK RUNNIN' AROUND TOWN, BUT NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SNAP ANY DECENT SHOTS OF 'IM.

HE'S BEEN CALUSIN' A WHOLE HEAP OF TROUBLE FOR THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY AND HIS KNIGHTS OF MUNDAGORE; HE'S JUST THIS UNSTOPPABLE BEHEMOTH.

GUY'S BIG AS A MAG-LEV TRUCK, Y'KNOW, BUT WITH FOUR TIMES THE HORSEPOWER. JUST SMASHES EVERYTHING IN HIS WAY!

WOW...



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SURE,
WHATEVER.
IT'S YOUR
FUNERAL.

RICHARD'S
RESEARCH
GROUP

PRIVATE PROPERTY
KEEP OUT

FUNNY, I WAS KIND OF
EXPECTING TO HEAR A FAMILIAR
VOICE, BUT WHOEVER'S RUNNING
SECURITY HERE OBVIOUSLY ISN'T
REED OR ANYONE ELSE FROM
HIS FAMILY.

REALLY,
I SHOULDN'T
GET MY HOPES
UP ABOUT
THIS.

FOR ALL
ITS SIMILARITIES
TO THE EARTH I CALL
HOME, COUNTER-EARTH
IS A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PLACE.

THIS
WORLD'S REED
RICHARDS COULD
EASILY BE NOTHING LIKE
THE MAN WHO LEADS
THE FANTASTIC
FOUR BACK
HOME.

I
GUESS I'LL
SOON...

...FIND
OUT...!

SO...



COME ON,
PARKER--HOP ON
BOARD!

I KNOW
IT DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE MUCH, BUT YOU'LL
FIND IT'S REALLY QUITE
AN IMPRESSIVE
MACHINE.

IT'S
SOMETHING I JUST
WHIPPED TOGETHER SO
THAT I'D HAVE CONVENIENT
TRANSPORTATION TO
AND FROM THE UPPER
LEVELS OF THE
CITY...

...BUT
YOU'D BE AMAZED
HOW MANY BEASTIALS
WANT
TO GET THEIR HANDS ON
SOMETHING JUST LIKE
THIS.

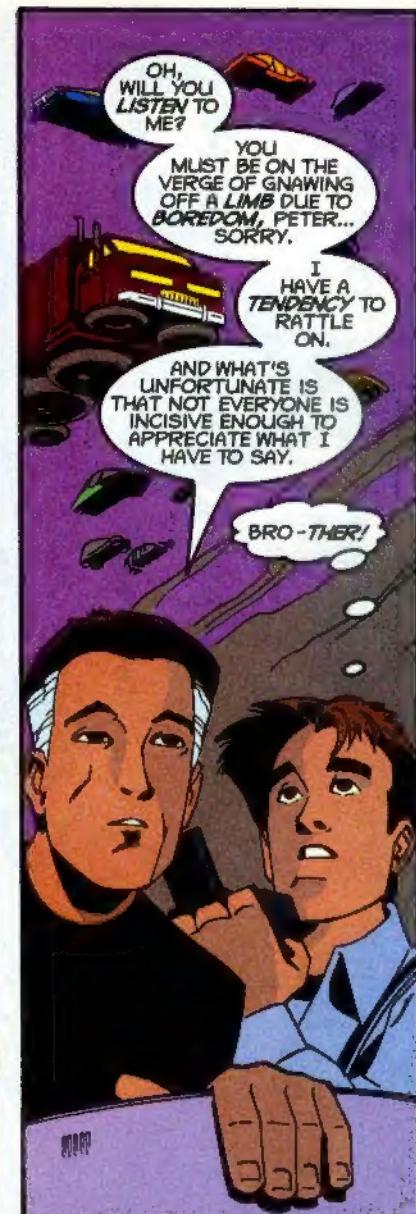
HEY, UH,
SPEAKING OF THE
BEASTIALS...

I
THOUGHT THEY
WERE THE ONLY
ONES ALLOWED...
YOU KNOW, UP
TOP.

YOUR
ASSUMPTION IS
CORRECT FOR THE
MOST PART, PETER,
BUT HONESTLY,
IT ALL DEPENDS
ON WHO YOU
ARE...

...OR
WHO YOU
KNOW.









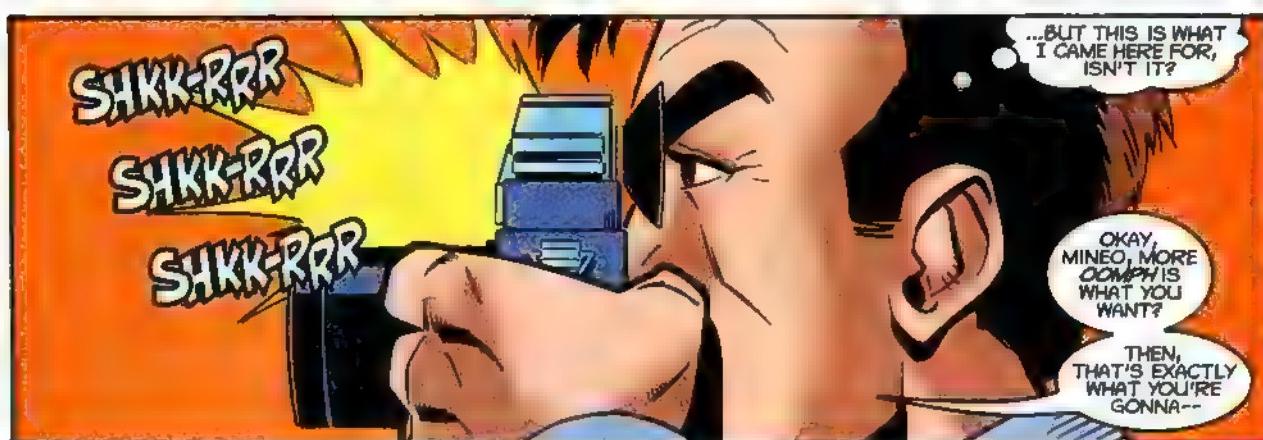
WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT I AM. EVERY OTHER HUMAN ON COUNTER-EARTH HAS AN I.D. CHIP IN THEIR NECK--BUT I DON'T.

BEING ABLE TO WORK WITHOUT PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION IS WHAT LED ME TO START TAKING PHOTOS FOR THE DAILY BYTE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

LOOK. THISSS ISSS AN EXCLUSSIVE ESSSTABLISHMENT. EITHER YOU COMPLY WITH MY REQUESST... QUICKLY...

...OR I CALL SECURITY.







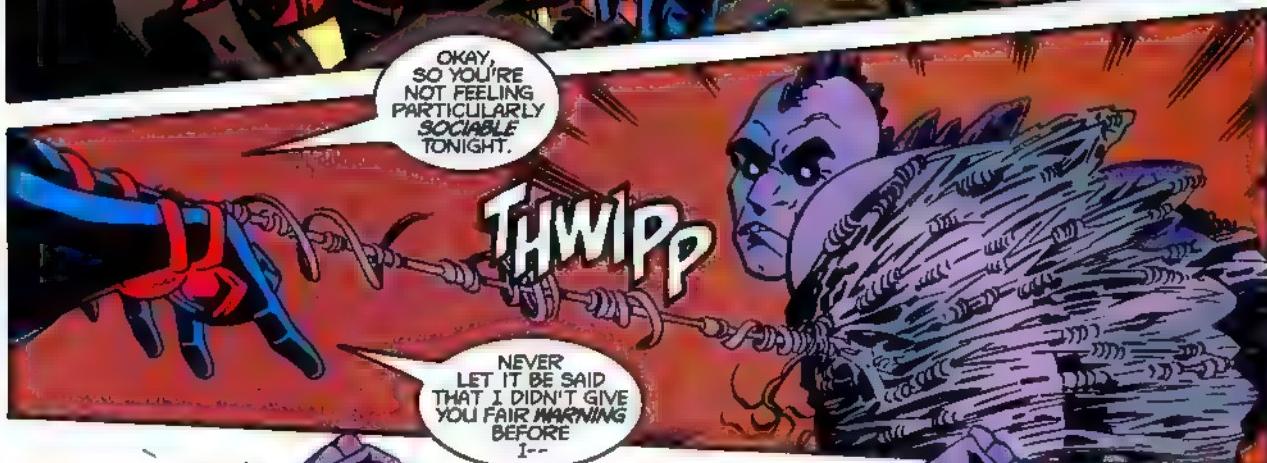
WHOK!

WHUNH-?!

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU
BETCHA, BUD--FULL
OF VIM, VIGOR AND A
WHOLE VARIETY OF
QUESTIONS!

BAH!
THE BRUTE
ANSWERS
TO NO ONE!



YIKES!
I BET HE CAN,
TOO!

I CAN
CRUSH YOU IN
WAYS YOU'VE
NEVER EVEN
IMAGINED!

I
THINK
IT'S TIME TO
EXERCISE
PLAN
B...!

OR
NOT.

WE'RE
OUTSIDE
THE ENTRANCE
TO THE
CLUB--

--BLIT
THERE'S NO
SIGN OF DR.
RICHARDS'
FLYING BATH
TUB.

FOR A
GUY WHOSE
WHOLE SHTICK IS
INVESTIGATING THE
BRUTE, HE SURE MADE
HIMSELF SCARCE
ONCE HIS PURPLE
PAL MADE THE
SCENE.

WHAT'S
THAT ALL ABOUT?



OOO, I
JUST LOVE
A MAN WITH
A MIND!

TWIP

RRAAAAHAAH!

OH, AND
INCIDENTALLY
MAGGOTS AND
SPIDERS REALLY
HAVE VERY LITTLE
IN COMMON.

THAT'S
FLIES YOU'RE
THINKING OF
MAGGOTS ARE
BABY FLIES.

I USED TO
KNOW A GUY
CALLED THE
HUMAN FLY,
THOUGH.

NOT
SURE IF
HE WAS EVER
A "LITTLE
MAGGOT."

NOW WEBS,
THAT'S
ANOTHER
STORY.

SEE
HOW I USED
MINE TO PULL
YOU OVER THE
EDGE LIKE
THAT?

SPIDERS
USE THEIR
WEBS TO TRAP
THEIR PREY
ALL THE
TIME!

KINDA
WHY I CHOSE
TO CALL MYSELF
"SPIDER-MAN."
GET--

WHAM!

--UNF!

SPIDER-MAN?

CAN Y'TELL IF
HE'S COMIN'
'ROUND?

I CAN'T
SEE IF HIS
EYES ARE OPEN
THROUGH THOSE
BLOODY STUPID-
LOOKIN' LENSES
OF 'IS.

I THINK
HE IS WAKING
UP. BE QUIET,
BROMELY!

SPIDER-
MAN...ARE YOU
OKAY?

MARY...
MARY JANE?!

'AFRAID NOT
LOVERBOY,
JUST LIL OL'
ME...

...AND
THE BOMB
FACTORY
HERE.

KAREN!
KAREN O'MALLEY...
AND BROMELY!

BUT WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHERE
AM I?

YOU'RE IN MY
HEADQUARTERS,
HIDDEN BENEATH A
WAREHOUSE IN A
NEIGHBORHOOD EVEN
THE MACHINE MEN
MAKE A HABIT OF
STEERING CLEAR
OF.

WHAT
THE DEVIL
IS GOING ON
HERE?

KAREN--
ARE YOU AND
BROMELY SOME-
HOW MIXED UP
WITH--



WAIT A
SECOND,

DID YOU SAY
THIS PLACE IS
UNDER A WARE-
HOUSE?



HAHA.
I THOUGHT
THAT MIGHT
TIP YOU
OFF.

NO SENSE
IN CONTINUING
THIS MASQUERADE,
THEN, IS THERE?

OH, MY
GOSH.

...YOU'RE
REED
RICHARDS!



YOU'RE
RIGHT,
OBVIOUSLY.

I APOLOGIZE
FOR WHAT HAPPENED
EARLIER, AT THE
CLUB, BUT GIVEN
YOUR APPEARANCE--
NOT TO MENTION THE
CIRCUMSTANCES
UNDER WHICH WE MET--

RIGHT,
WELL... I'LL
BUY THAT...

BUT IT
DOESN'T EXPLAIN
WHY YOU WENT SO
HARD ON THAT YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHER, PETER
PARKER. YOU NEARLY
KILLED HIM.

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE IN
LEAGUE WITH THE
BEASTIALS.

THAT
WAS COMPLETELY
UNINTENTIONAL.

I'M LESS...
INHIBITED AS THE
BRUTE, AND SOME-
TIMES I GET A BIT...
CARRIED AWAY.

I JUST
WANTED HIM
OUT OF THE
WAY AS
QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE.

I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
HURT THE
BOY.

WELL,
YOU WERE SURE
OUT TO HURT
SOMEONE.

HMM...

WHY TRASH
THAT PARTY IF
YOU'RE SUCH A
BIG MUCKITY-
MUCK WITH THE
BEASTIALS?

AND HOW
COME YOU'RE
SUDDENLY SO
PARANOID OF
THEM?

I THINK
WHAT BIG BRAIN
HERE AIN'T TELLIN'
YA IS THAT THE
HIGH-FALOOTIN',
BEASTIAL-LOVIN',
BRUTE-HUNTIN' CAD
THE WORLD BELIEVES
REED RICHARDS
TO BE...

...IS PART OF AN
ACT DESIGNED TO KEEP
REED IN THE BEASTIAL'S
GOOD GRACES, WHILE DRAWIN'
ATTENTION AWAY FROM
WHAT HE'S REALLY
UP TO.

Y'SEE THE
BRUTE'S RAMPAGE
WAS REALLY JUST A' BLIND,
ALLOWIN' YERS TRULY TO STEAL
SOME NEW SECURITY SOFTWARE
OFFA ONE O' THE PARTY GUESTS.

OH,
MY--YOU'RE
BEV GRIMM!

YOU GOT IT, WEB-HEAD.

ME AN' REED HAVE BEEN HELPIN' THE HUMAN REVOLUTION FOR A WHILE NOW.

DR. RICHARDS AND MR. GRIMM ARE REALLY BEING OVERLY MODEST, SPIDER-MAN.

IN MANY WAYS, THEY'VE BEEN THE INSPIRATION FOR OUR ENTIRE RESISTANCE EFFORT.

KAREN'S REFERRING TO AN ILL-FATED ATTEMPT TO CHALLENGE THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, MADE BY MYSELF AND BEN...

...ALONG WITH MY FIANCÉE, SUSAN STORM, AND HER BROTHER, JOHNNY.



"MY INSTRUMENTS HAD DETERMINED THAT THE EVOLUTIONARY MAINTAINED A BASE ON AN ASTEROID ORBITING THE EARTH, SO WE STOWED AWAY ABOARD AN AUTOMATED CRAFT HEADED THERE."



"THE SHIP RAN INTO TROUBLE, THOUGH--A COSMIC STORM--AND WE HAD TO OVERRIDE THE SHIP'S AUTOPilot AND ABORT OUR MISSION."



"EVEN SO, IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO MAKE OUR WAY SAFELY BACK HOME!"

THE WHOLE SHIP--

--IT'S BEING BOMBARDÉD WITH COSMIC RAYS!

WHEN WE DID REACH THE EARTH, I DISCOVERED I'D BEEN CHANGED BY THE COSMIC RAYS... INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN MERELY HUMAN!

IT WAS AT THE EXPENSE OF JOHNNY'S LIFE, THOUGH...

...AND SUE IS NOW IN A COMA, FROM WHICH THERE'S NO KNOWING IF SHE'LL EVER RECOVER.



I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH
HOW SORRY I AM
FOR WHAT HAPPENED
AT THAT NIGHTCLUB,
SPIDER-MAN.

EVERYTHING
THE BRUTE DID
UP THERE... IT WAS
DONE IN THE BEST
INTERESTS OF THE
HUMANS WHO LIVE
DOWN HERE.

FOR
THE GOOD OF THE
RESISTANCE...

I
UNDERSTAND,
DR.
RICHARDS.

I WAS JUST
THINKING, THOUGH...
ABOUT HOW SAD IT IS
THAT THINGS TURNED
OUT THE WAY THEY DID
FOR YOU...

...FOR
SUE.

SPIDER-MAN... KAREN TOLD ME
THAT YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER
EARTH LOCATED SOME
200 MILLION MILES AWAY,
ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE SUN.

I DON'T
KNOW QUITE
HOW TO SAY THIS,
BUT... THE WAY YOU
SPEAK TO ME, THE
WAY YOU REACTED
TO BEN...

...I GET
THE FEELING
WE'VE MET
BEFORE... ON
THAT OTHER
EARTH.

WE
HAVE, DR.
RICHARDS.

YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY
ARE SOME OF
THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
HEROES THERE.

MY...
FAMILY...?

YOU AND
BEN... ALONG
WITH JOHNNY
STORM AND
YOUR WIFE,
SUSAN.

SHE'S AN
INCREDIBLE,
WOMAN, DR.
RICHARDS, JUST
AS I'M SURE
YOUR SUE
WAS.

I CAN
ONLY IMAGINE
HOW IT FEELS
TO LOSE SOMEONE
LIKE THAT.

INSIDE,
YOU SAID
SOMETHING
ABOUT A...
MARY JANE?
IS SHE...?

MY
GIRLFRIEND,
BACK HOME.

I CAN'T
EVEN BEGIN
TO DESCRIBE
HOW MUCH I
MISS HER.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO TRY,
SPIDER-MAN.

I
KNOW.

NEXT
WHAT LIES BEYOND THE EDGE OF
MANHATTAN?